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\$660 Plus

## A Daring Escape

By TOM NOLAN

In August, 1964, Thomas Doszkocs (pronounced DOSE-scotch) became the first Hungarian student permitted to study at an American university by his government. There have been others since then, but now there might not be too many more, and to Tom Doszkocs, that's the big rub.

"It is such a good thing for a Hungarian to come here. One of my good friends is studying here right now. I hope that many more will be permitted to come."

Tom Doszkocs escaped from Hungary about eight months ago. He also managed to bring his wife, Vera, 23, and son Tom Jr., 3.

### THOUSAND REASONS

Tom's year at Indiana University as a teaching associate and student didn't have much to do with his escape. Indeed, if his government had allowed him to accept his first scholarship offer — from a British university — he'd probably be in London today.

Tho he had a "thousand" reasons for wanting to escape Hungary, the main ones were political and economic. His apartment rent cost him half a month's salary (he earned about \$660 a year); a pound of beef, two days' pay. Tho he graduated from college with high grades, he was permitted only to teach high school students.

He was not allowed to mention his experiences in America. His wife could not find a job, tho she was a college graduate also. The Hungarian police hounded him with questions, mainly if he had been approached by the CIA while in America.

In order to keep his job, he had to follow the party line, in such ways as sending telegrams of support to the Viet Cong and letters of protest to the American embassy regarding Vietnam.

The family finally decided to make a bid for freedom, tho they were fully aware of the consequences of failure. "We would be separated from our child, jailed and then forced to work as unskilled laborers if caught," Tom says.

The family was finally permitted a "vacation" in Bulgaria. There, by forging their passports, they were allowed to return home by train thru Yugoslavia.

After jumping the train, they tried to cross the Italian border, but were arrested. Tom was jailed for two days but was released when he paid a fine. Then, the family boarded an Austrian-bound train, and by hiding under a compartment bed (the compartment was occupied by drunken Yugoslav laborers), managed to elude the control officer.

Reaching Austria, they spent seven months in a refugee camp before flying to the U.S. last week. They are now staying with Tom's Indiana roommate in an apartment here.

Tom, who will be a guest on WWDC's "Our Two Cents" program at 9:30 p.m. this Sunday, is looking for a job as a Russian teacher or a research assistant. Their first week in this country has been particularly satisfying to Tom Jr.

"He just loves Coca-Cola and chewing gum," says his father. "You know, in Hungary it took a half hour's work to purchase one package of gum."

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Mr. and Mrs. Doszkocs, and Tom Jr.

—News Photo by Geoffrey C

